PLACE NAMES
in
Colorado

Why 700 Communities Were So Named

150 of Spanish or Indian Origin

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By

J. Frank Dawson

Price One Dollar

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the "Spirit of the West". That indefinable and intangible Spirit that came with the oxen teams and wagon trains. The Spirit which was present when such names as these were born, "Two Bit Gulch", "Tincup", "Cannibal Plateau", "Slabtown" and "Skull Creek". It was the Spirit present in the hearts of the pony express rider, the prospector, the frontierswoman, the adventurer and even the girls of the dance halls.

It was the Spirit which cried out for adventure and the opportunity to wrest out a fortune with bare hands, or go broke. That Spirit demanded courage. It meant hardship and disappointment which were expected and tossed aside when they appeared. That Spirit meant life in the raw, yet no one ever wanted to "go back home".

Much of the "Spirit of the West" exists today. Perhaps in a lesser degree, but when it is observed what Colorado and the West have done in a scant one hundred years, there must be some of that old Spirit remaining.

Perhaps the Spirit of "Don't fence me in" is in many of our out-of-state visitors who come back to see us year after year. Some say it is because of our wonderful scenery and climate. It could be. Yet it may be an "out-cropping" of the Western Spirit showing up in the descendents of persons who wanted to "head west" in the early days, but just couldn't make it.

Mt. Sopris

Preface

As you travel throughout this great state of ours, perhaps you will ask yourself, "I wonder how this town or that town received its name. For whom was it named? What does the name mean?" Such curiosity prompted a hobby on my part of finding the answers to these questions. It has developed into a very interesting one during my travels throughout the state during the past tweny-four years.

"Colorado", our state name, is a Spanish word meaning "red". In reality, it is two words, "Colo" and "Rojo" (color red). It was named for the Colorado River, which was discovered in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon in 1604 by a party of Spanish explorers. It is therefore, one of the oldest geographic names in the United States. The predominant red color of the water caused from the red soil farther back in the mountains, was the reason for selecting that name. It was over 250 years later (1861) when Congress decided to give that name to our territory and their reason was that the source of one of the "Colorado's" two main tributaries (The Grand) was located within our proposed territorial boundaries. It was not until 1921, however, that Congress changed the name of The Grand to the "Colorado", so that great river might have the same name from the source of one of its tributaries to its mouth in the Gulf of California.

Before "Colorado" was decided upon as the name of our territory, many other names were suggested, such as: Pike (for Zebulon R. Pike who discovered Pikes Peak), Colon, Spanish for Columbia; Jefferson and Osage were also suggested; Yampa, Idahoe, Nemora, San Juan, Lulu, Weapollo, Arapahoe, Tahosa, Lafayette, Columbus and Franklin were considered. "Idahoe" appeared to be the favorite, but "Colorado" was finally chosen on February 28, 1861.

Our state has honored a number of presidents and early day Colorado governors in the naming of some counties. Indian and Spanish names are numerous. Civil War heroes, Indian scouts and Explorers, as well as the names of cities from other states and foreign lands were used by the adventurous, westward-moving populace.

The railroads, particularly in eastern Colorado, were responsible for many names which were originally given to section houses (usually six miles apart) and later developed into communities. As an example in 1888, when the Missouri-Pacific track was laid in Colorado, Jay Gould's daughter, Helen, was permitted to name sixteen section houses between the Kansas State line and Olney Springs. She named them alphabetically, selecting individuals who were publicly prominent at that time.

It could not be expected to have a permanent community formed around each of these section houses, but many towns did come into being and few of the original names have been changed. They still

appear in alphabetical order: Brandon, Chivington, Diston, Eads, Galatea, Haswell, Inman, Lolita, Meredith, Numa and Olney Springs.

In the early days, there were a number of French traders and trappers operating in this area. Their influence can be observed in the naming of such places as Estes Park, the Platte River, Cache La Poudre, Julesburg, St. Vrain, Picketwire River and others.

Girl's names were not overlooked in the selection. The Bible also furnished some, such as Ophir, Timnath, Manassa and Lebanon. Ministers were honored in the naming of Craig, Windsor, Atwood and Vernon.

Some names were voted upon, such as Kim, Beulah and Canon City. Some were coined, such as Dacona and Uravan. At least two names are spelled in reverse. They are Egnar (for Range) and Orestod (for Dotsero). Some names have humerous, homespun versions as to their christening, such as Paoli, Flagler and Tyrone.

In earlier days, it was a common practice to change names and many of our communities had several. Leadville stands at the head of the list in that respect, as it had at least six different names.

There are about 670 names listed in this booklet. I believe every community in the state with a population of fifty or more is listed. Many with only a small population are shown because formerly they were once larger and played an important part in the history of our state. In other instances, certain ghost town names have been included because the origin of the name had some particular interest or significance.

In compiling this information, the Colorado Historical Society and some of their local chapters were of great assistance, as was the Denver Public Library and the United States Forest Service. It was during my travels throughout the state, however, in talking before eighty service clubs and visiting with many old-timers that I was able to obtain information which was not found elsewhere.

All names are shown in alphabetical order. In parenthesis, following community names is the county in which they are located. Following each county name in parenthesis is the year when it was created.

It is the hope of the writer that old time residents of the state who are interested in this subject will send in nformation to the publisher in respect to other names not mentioned herein. This applies also to different versions of the naming of towns. The writer cannot, of course, guarantee the correctness of any information in this booklet, but it has been obtained from sources believed to be authentic and reliable. In many instances, the writer has heard of several versions of a name. Some of those were omitted because they were obviously home-spun. In other instances, however, that information has been given as the stories seem logical. It is for this reason that other versions of names are particularly solicited in addition to the names of other settlements not appearing in this edition.

Place Names In Colorado

ABARR (Yuma) The maiden name of Mrs. Ethel H. Hoffman, the postmistress. It was also called BROWNSVILLE at one time.

ABE LINCOLN (Teller) For the president, Abe Lincoln.

ABEYTA (Las Animas) The maiden name of the mother of Casimiro Barela. She was the daughter of a prominent Spanish family. (See Barela)

ADAMS COUNTY (1902) Governor Alva Adams.

ADENA (Morgan) For Edna Adena, an early settler.

AGATE (Elbert) From the agate stones and arrow heads found in the vicinity. Another version is that it was named for a large cattle gate on the Union Pacific Railroad right of way through which cattle were driven for loading purposes.

AGUILAR (Las Animas) For Jose Ramon Aguilar, a pioneer.

AKRON (Washington) Greek for "summit". So named as it is the highest point on the C. B. & Q. Railroad east of Denver. It was named by Mrs. Calvert, wife of a Burlington railroad official for her home town in Akron, Ohio.

ALAMOSA COUNTY (1913—see Alamosa) This was the last County created in Colorado.

ALAMOSA (Alamosa) Spanish for "cottonwood". It was named for Alamosa Creek. Some reports say that Alamosa means "Shaded with Elms", but because of the fact that there are numerous cottonwoods on the banks of the creek and few elms, if any, the cottonwood version is generally accepted.

Alamosa was named for Alamosa Creek as the townsite was originally laid out on its banks at a point about fifteen miles south of its present location. Before any building was done, however, a flood occured and washed out the proposed townsite. The promoters then decided to move the site further north on the Rio Grande River rather than on Alamosa Creek.

ALDER (Saguache) For Alder Creek which had many Alder trees along its banks.

ALFALFA (Larimer) A very successful crop raised in that area. It was formerly called RATON.

ALICE (Clear Creek) Named by Mr. Taylor, who operated a mine nearby, after his wife, Alice Taylor.

ALLENSPARK (Boulder) For Alonzo Allen, an early day settler and prospector.

ALLISON (La Plata) For Allison Stocker who surveyed land in the area and also the Pine River Canal about 1900. The mountains north of there also bear his name. Before the town was formed, only a section house was there known as VALLEJO, Spanish for "pretty valley". Stocker later became State Treasurer.

ALMA (Park) There are three versions for this name. The most accepted one is that it was named in honor of the popular daughter, Alma, of an early settler family named Jaynes. It is also thought the town could have been named for Alma James, wife of a Fairplay merchant who opened the first store here. Another version is the naming for Alma Graves, wife of Abner Graves, the operator of nearby Alma Mine.

ALMONT (Gunnison) For a famous Kentucky race horse. The town was so named by Sam Fisher, a rancher, who had purchased a stallion in Kentucky and brought him to Colorado. The stallion was a son of Almont.

AMHERST (Phillips) For Amherst, Massachusetts. Was so named by a landowner from there who had interests in the area.

AMITY (Prowers) Named by the Salvation Army when they established a colony here in 1898. About 1910 a Henry Starr held up their bank (The State Bank of Amity) and rode away with the funds. That ended Amity.

ANIMAS CITY (La Plata) Spanish for "City of Souls" and was founded before Durango but was later absorbed into that City.

ANIMAS RIVER (La Plata) The full name is Rio de Las Animas Perdidas, Spanish for "River of Lost Souls".

ANTERO JUNCTION (Park) Named for Antero Mountain which was named in honor of a Uintah Ute Chief who was a signer of the peace treaty between the Utes and the United States in 1873.

ANTLERS (Garfield) Named for the Antler's Hotel in Colorado Springs by Henry A. Butters, the founder of the town.

ANTONITO (Conejos) Spanish for "little Anthony" and named by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad after San Antonio River in the vicinity.

APISHIPA (Las Animas) A pass and a river. An Indian word meaning "stinking" or "smelly" water caused by the overflow of the river in the meadows which later became stagnant and odorous. The pass was first named CORDOVA, for the first Spanish-American Commissioner of Las Animas County. In 1941, the Forest Service disapproved the name and the United States Geographic Board changed it to APISHIPA PASS. There is still some local usage of the name CORDOVA PASS.

ARAPAHOE COUNTY (1861) Arapahoe Indians. Until 1902, the county seat was Denver.

ARAPAHOE (Lincoln) For the Arapahoe Indians.

ARBOLES (Archuleta) Spanish for "trees".

ARENA (Chaffee) Spanish for "sand". There are similarly named communities in Jefferson and Cheyenne Counties. This particular community was sometimes called SWAN.

ARIKAREE RIVER (Yuma) Name of an Indian tribe. It refers to "horn".

ARKANSAS RIVER After the State of Arkansas which was named for a tribe of Indians by that name.

ARCHULETA COUNTY (1885) For Antonio D. Archuleta, Senator from Conejos County, when it was divided to form this county.

AROYA (Cheyenne) Spanish for "rivulet".

ARRIBA (Lincoln) Spanish for "above or over", referring to the town's altitude of 5,239 feet, which is higher than other towns in that region.

ARRIOLA (Montezuma) Name of an early Spanish general.

ARTESIA (Moffat) So named for the artesia water supply for the Rangely oil field development.

ARVADA (Jefferson) Hiram Arvada Hoskins, brother-in-law of the founder B. F. Wadsworth. First known as RALSTON CREEK where early miners first discovered gold.

ASPEN (Pitkin) For the many Aspen trees in the vicinity. First called UTE CITY.

ATWOOD (Logan) Named by Victor Wilson, who brought a colony here from Abilene, Kansas. A Unitarian by faith, he named the town after a minister of that sect, Reverend John S. Atwood of Boston, Massachusetts.

AULT (Weld) For Alexander Ault, a pioneer miller and grain buyer. Was first called BURGDORF for Charles W. Burgdorf, road-master for the Union Pacific Railroad.

AURORA (Arapahoe and Adams Counties) Means "Dawn" or "Morning". First called FLETCHER for Donald Fletcher, one of the town's promoters.

AUSTIN (Delta) Named for Austin E. Miller, who came from Iowa as a tubercular and regained his health and acquired large land holdings there.

AVALO (Weld) Spanish for "earthquake" and probably for the broken topography of the surrounding land. It was formerly known as GREASEWOOD FLATS.

AVONDALE (Pueblo) Named for Stratford-on-Avon in England.

AXIAL (Moffat) So named because it is considered the axis of the coal and mineral area in the county.

BACA COUNTY (1889) For the Baca Family of Trinidad. A member of the family was the first settler on Two Buttes Creek and the county was so named at the suggestion of Senator Barela.

BAILEY (Park) For William Bailey, early settler and stage coach operator.

BAKER'S PARK (San Juan) Named for Captain Charles Baker, adventurous prospector who discovered gold there.

BALZAC (Morgan) Believed to have been named for the French author, Honore de Balzac. There were three towns in Colorado by this name and all are ghost towns.

BARELA (Las Animas) For Senator Casimiro Barela, who served in the territorial legislature. (See Abeyta)

BARR LAKE (Adams) Named for a Mr. Barr, a civil engineer for the Burlington Railroad. It was first called PLATTE SUMMIT.

BASALT (Eagle) Named for Basalt Peak, a lava formation in the area.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN (Eagle) Named for a fierce battle fought there between the Utes and the Arapahoe Indians in 1849.

BAXTER (Pueblo) For O. H. P. Baxter, early pioneer.

BAXTERVILLE (Rio Grande) Named for a Mr. Baxter, the owner of a small restaurant there who was famous for his chili.

BAYFIELD (La Plata) Named for W. A. Bay, who laid out the town. It was first known as LOS PINOS, Spanish for "the pines".

BEECHER ISLAND (Yuma) For Lt. Fred Beecher, who was killed there in a battle with the Indians in 1868.

BELDEN (Eagle) Named in honor of Judge D. D. Belden who discovered the Belden Mine there in 1879.

BELLEVUE (Larimer) French for Beautiful view. Sometimes spelled BELLVUE.

BENNETT (Adams) For Honorable H. P. Bennett, who was then postmaster in Denver. From 1877 to 1907 it was known incorrectly as BENNET, but officially changed in 1907. This community was first called KIOWA for nearby Kiowa Creek.

BENT COUNTY (1870) For the Bent Brothers who established Bent's Fort in 1828-32.

BERGEN PARK (Jefferson) For Thomas C. Bergen who settled there in 1859.

BERTHOUD (Larimer) For Captain Ed L. Berthoud, chief civil engineer of the Colorado Central Railroad. Berthoud Pass was also named for him. It was first known as LITTLE THOMPSON.

BERTHOUD PASS (Clear Creek) For Captain E. L. Berthoud, an early explorer and discoverer of the pass.

BERWIND (Las Animas) For E. J. Berwind, chairman of the board of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

BESHOAR (Las Animas) For Michael Beshoar, an early pioneer and physician.

BESSEMER (Pueblo) For Sir Henry Bessemer, the inventor of the process of reducing iron ores.

BEULAH (Pueblo) From the Bible. It was first called MACE'S HOLE, after the Mexican outlaw, Juan Mace. A Reverend Gaylord objected to the original name as being unworthy and at a social gathering in 1876, two names were voted upon—Silver Glen and Beulah. Beulah won by two votes.

BLACKHAWK (Gilpin) Named for the Blackhawk Mining Co., which in turn took its name from a trade-marked machinery item which was named after the Blackhawk Indian Tribe.

BLAINE (Baca) For an early settler by that name. It was formerly called ARTESIA.

BLANCA (Costilla) Spanish for "white". Named for nearby Mount Blanca.

BLOOM (Otero) For Frank G. Bloom, son-in-law of M. D. Thatcher, Sr. He operated cattle ranches which were principally owned by Mr. Thatcher. Bloom was also Vice-President of the First National Bank of Trinidad.

BOETTCHER (Larimer) Named for Charles Boettcher, a pioneer Colorado industrialist.

BONANZA (Saguache) Spanish for "Prosperity".

BONCARBO (Las Animas) Meaning "good coal".

BOND (Eagle) Presumably in honor of the joining of the Denver and Salt Lake Railroad with the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

BOONE (Pueblo) Named for Colonel A. G. Boone, grandson of Daniel Boone, Kentucky pioneer. It was first called FOSDICK in honor of H. M. Fosdick, a civil engineer.

BOULDER COUNTY (1861) Named from Boulder City and Boulder Creek—so named because of the abundance of boulders.

BOULDER (Boulder) Same as the County.

BOUNTIFUL (Conejos) As the name implies. It is a favorite Morman name.

BOVINA (Lincoln) A Spanish word referring to cattle and given to the town because of its location in an area where cattle raising was the chief industry.

BOWEN (Las Animas) For Thomas F. Bowen, a lawyer and state senator.

BOWIE (Delta) For Alexander Bowie who operated a coal mine in that area and was the first Postmaster. Was formerly known as WAUNETA and also READING for the Pennsylvania city.

BOYERO (Lincoln) Spanish for "bull pen". Named by the Mexican station hands because of the stockyards located there.

BRANSON (Las Animas) Named for Al Branson, hardware merchant, a civic minded man and leading citizen of Trinidad. It was formerly called WILSON'S SWITCH for an early day rancher named Wilson.

BRECKENRIDGE (Summit) So named for the Vice President of the United States. It was first called FORT MERIBEH (MARY B.), honoring the only white woman in the original party of settlers who arrived there in 1859-60.

BREEN (La Plata) Named for Dr. Thomas Breen, at one time superintendent of the Fort Lewis Indian School. It is the Post Office for Fort Lewis.

BRIGGSDALE (Weld) For Frank Briggs, the founder of the town.

BRIGHTON (Adams) For Brighton, Massachusetts, the hometown of D. F. Carmichaels, who laid out the town in 1887. First called HUGHES JUNCTION for General Bela M. Hughes, President of the Overland Mail Company.

BRISTOL (Prowers) For C. H. Bristol, general superintendent of the Santa Fe Railroad. (See Hartman regarding a typographical map error in the naming of these two communities.)

BROADMOOR (El Paso) For the type of terrain that existed in that area prior to development.

BROOMFIELD (Boulder) So named for the broom corn fields in the area.

BRUSH (Morgan) For Jared L. Brush, pioneer cattleman. It was first called BEAVER CREEK.

BUFORD (Rio Blanco) Named for the Confederate General by Mrs. Cloherity, a local school teacher from a history book her class was studying at the time.

BUCKINGHAM (Weld) For C. D. Buckingham, the Superintendent of the McCook Division of the Burlington Railroad.

BUCKTON (Lake) For the buck deer found in the area.

BUICK (Elbert) For a pioneer family named "Beuck". It was hard to pronounce so it was changed to Buick, as it sounded. Was first called GODFREY.

BURLINGTON (Kit Carson) For Burlington, Kansas, named by early residents who had come from there. It was first known as LOWELL. Burlington, Kansas, was named after Burlington, Vermont, by O. E. Learnard, an early settler.

BURNS (Eagle) For Jack Burns, an early trapper.

BYERS (Arapahoe) William N. Byers, publisher and founder of The Rocky Mountain News in Denver. First known as BIJOU.

BYERS CANYON (Grand) Named for William A. Byers of the Rocky Mountain News of Denver, who was financially interested in the development of properties in the vicinity of Hot Sulphur Springs. At one time, it was reported that Mr. Byers owned most of Hot Sulphur Springs.

CACHE LA POUDRE (Larimer) French for "where the powder was hidden".

CADDOA (Bent) For Caddoa Creek, so named for a tribe of Indians who wintered there in 1863-64.

CAHONE (Dolores) Named by the first postmaster, Bert Ballenger, for the box-like canyon nearby. The name came from "cajon" which is the Spanish for "little box".

CALCITE (Fremont) For the lime (Calcite quarry) located there.

CALHAN (El Paso) To honor a railroad contractor by that name.

CALUMET (Las Animas) Indian word for "pipe of Peace".

CAMEO (Mesa) For a natural cameo head directly east of the town.

CAMERON PASS (Larimer) For General R. A. Cameron, who was the founder of Fort Collins. This pass was the mail and freight route to Jackson County.

CAMPION (Larimer) For John Eugene Campion, an engineer and surveyor who assisted in building the Colorado Central Railroad.

CAMPO (Baca) Spanish for "field".

CANFIELD (Boulder) For Ike Canfield, a coal mine operator. It was first considered calling it "Wise" after an early day settler, but the residents didn't think it would be a "wise" name for the town.

CANNIBAL PLATEAU (Hinsdale) After Alfred Packer who in 1874 killed and ate five companions.

CANON CITY (Fremont) Named for the Grand Canyon of the Arkansas. A poet named Miller suggested the name of "Oreodelphia", which was voted down. Canon in Spanish means "tube" or "funnel".

CAPULIN (Conejos) Spanish for "chokecherry".

CARACAS (Archuleta) Believed named for Caracas, Venezuela.

CARBONDALE (Garfield) Named by John Mankin in 1888 for his home town in Pennsylvania.

CARR (Weld) Named for Robert E. Carr, a contractor associated with John Evans. Later Carr became President of the Kansas-Pacific Railroad.

CASTLE ROCK (Douglas) For the castlelike rock formation nearby.

CEBOLLA (Gunnison) Spanish for "onion". Many Ute tribes wintered in this area where wild onions were abundant which they ate. Wild onions still grow here.

CEDAREDGE (Delta) For the cedar trees in that area.

CENTER (Saguache) So named because of its location in the center of the San Luis Valley. It was first known as CENTERVIEW.

CENTRAL CITY (Gilpin) Because it was the center of trading for that mining area.

CERRO SUMMIT (Montrose) Spanish for "ridge".

CHAFFEE COUNTY (1879) For U. S. Senator Jerome B. Chaffee.

CHAMA (Costilla) Spanish for "lass" or "little girl". So named by some settlers who located there from Chamita, New Mexico, in 1859.

CHERAW (Otero) Named for a lake south of the town. It is an Indian word meaning "sparkling waters".

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE (Arapahoe) For the large cherry orchards that at one time were in the area.

CHEYENNE COUNTY (1889) For the Cheyenne Indians.

CHEYENNE WELLS (Cheyenne) So named because of the wells dug there by the Cheyenne Indians.

CHIVINGTON (Kiowa) For Colonel John M. Chivington, a prominant Civil War hero and Indian fighter.

CHROMO (Archuleta) For Chromo Mountain, New Mexico. It is a greek word meaning "color". It was first called PRICE for Charles W. Price, its first postmaster.

CIMMARRON (Montrose) Spanish for "wild" or "unruly".

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY (1861) For the Stream which was first called Vasquez Fork for Louis Vasquez, who built the first trading station in Colorado in 1832.

CLIFTON (Mesa) For the steep cliffs in that area.

CLIMAX (Lake) So named because it was the highest station on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and so named by the railroad when they served the Community. It was first known as FREMONT PASS.

COAL CREEK (Fremont) For the coal mines located there.

COCHETOPA PASS (Saguache) An Indian word meaning "the pass of the buffalo", also thought to mean "valley stream". Another version is that the word means "pearls" to describe the river. The buffalo version is most commonly accepted.

COLLBRAN (Mesa) Named for a railroad man who lived in the community. It was first called HAWHURST, but in 1894 through the efforts of Dr. Wallace A. DeBeque, it was changed to honor Mr. Collbran. Mr. Hawhurst was the first settler in the community.

COLONA (Ouray) Spanish for "colonist". It was first called HOTCHKISS for Enos Hotchkiss.

COLORADO SPRINGS (El Paso) Named for springs in the area. It was first known as EL PASO, and also FOUNTAIN COLONY. (Colorado City, now a part of Colorado Springs, was the first county seat and it was also the capital of Colorado for four days when the state was known as the Territory of Colorado.)

COLORADO RIVER (Grand) This river was first known as FIREBRAND, but later named the GRAND by the French trappers because of its size. In 1921 the U. S. Congress changed the name to the COLORADO so that the river would have the same name from the source of one of its two tributaries. Up to 1921, the Colorado was a river formed by two tributaries, the Green and the Grand. Normally the larger tributary which was the Green would bear the name of COLORADO, but Congerss felt that inasmuch as the source of the shorter tributary was in Colorado (the name sake of the river) that it would be better to change the name to COLORADO. When this was done it left a stretch of about 80 miles of the Grand River in Utah, still known as the Grand. After 1921 the Utah Legislature corrected this by changing the name of that 80 mile stretch to the COLORADO.

COMO (Park) Named for Lake Como in Italy.

CONEJOS COUNTY (1861) Spanish for "rabbits" and was named for the Conejos River which in turn was named by Spaniards long ago. The name "Guadaloupe" was first suggested, but finally called "Conejos" at the request of Representative Garcia when the first counties were designated in Colorado in 1861. The first county seat was Guadaloupe.

CONEJOS (Conejos) Named for the county.

CONIFER (Jefferson) George Conifer, who had a roadhouse there on the Denver-Leadville Stage Route. Another version is that it was named for a group of Conifer trees in the vicinity. The first version has greater acceptance.

COPE (Washington) For Johnathon C. Cope, a Burlington Railroad employee who was sent there to homestead a terminal site.

CORNISH (Weld) For a Mr. Cornish, a civil engineer employed by the Union Pacific Railroad.

CORTEZ (Montezuma) For the Spanish conqueror.

CORY (Delta) For Cora Hurshman, wife of the first postmaster.

COSTILLA COUNTY (1861) Spanish for "rib", or "furring timber" and was named for the Costilla River designated as such by Spaniards before 1800 because the course of the river resembles a section of ribs. Another version is that the county was named for the Costilla family who were given the Costilla Land Grant. This version is supported by the General Land Office as the county boundaries are almost identical to the boundaries of the Costilla Grant. The first county seat was San Miguel.

COTOPAXI (Fremont) It was named directly for a mine near the Cotopaxi Volcano in Peru by a Russian prospector, a Mr. Saulteel. It is a Jewish word meaning "shining pile".

CRAIG (Moffat) Named for the Reverend Bayard Craig. It was also known as ROSEDALE which is at present a suburb of Craig. It was also called YAMPA at one time.

CRAWFORD (Delta) Named for the Honorable George A. Crawford, who was prominent on the western slope.

CREEDE (Mineral) For Nicholas Creede, an early day miner. It was also called JIMTOWN and AMETHYST.

CRESTED BUTTE (Gunnison) Because of its resemblance to a cock's comb.

CRESTONE (Saguache) Spanish meaning "cock's comb" which the nearby mountains resemble.

CRIPPLE CREEK (Teller) Named for the creek that bears the same name. The creek was so named because many cattle, particularly calves, were crippled when crossing it. The town was first known as FREMONT.

CROOK (Logan) For Major General George Crook, who had a part in the capture of the savage Apache, Geronimo.

CROSS MOUNTAIN (Moffat) There are two versions. One is that it was named by a family of Morgans because this particular mountain crossed the Yampa River in the area. The second version is that it was so named because a large cross made of white quartz or granite of about ten feet by six feet and made by man was found on the top of the mountain. It is thought that Padre Escalante's party could have built it in 1776, when they wintered there.

CROW (Pueblo) For Matt Crow, former postmaster of Pueblo. It was so named by Cal Goss, the first postmaster of Crow.

CROWLEY COUNTY (1911) Named in honor of John H. Crowley, Senator from Otero County at the time Otero County was divided to form Crowley County.

CROWLEY (Crowley) See Crowley County.

CUARTO (Las Animas) Meaning "The Fourth". It was the fourth of five mining operations opened in that area by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in 1904.

CUCHARA (Huerfano) Spanish for "spoon". So named for its location in a spoonshaped valley.

CUMBRES PASS (Conejos) Spanish for "summits".

CUSTER COUNTY (1877) For General George A. Custer, famous Indian fighter.

DACONO (Weld) A coined word made up in 1901 from the first two letters of the names of three women by C. L. Baum, a local coal mine operator. The three names were Daisy, his wife's name, Cora Van Voorhies and Nora Brooks. Cora and Nora were friends of Mrs. Baum.

DAILEY (Logan) For James Dailey, trainmaster for the Burlington Railroad.

DALLAS DIVIDE (Ouray) So named to honor George M. Dallas, the Vice President of the United States in 1845-49.

DEARFIELD (Larimer) Named by C. T. Jackson, a negro, who colonized it. The name came from the fact that the hard work done in the fields would make them "dear" to the colonists.

DE BEQUE (Mesa) For Dr. Wallace A. De Beque.

DECEPTION CREEK (Moffat) Because of its deceiving nature. Flash floods often deposited quick sand on the grass and meadows bordering the creek. New grass would form over this sand which was tempting to range stock and many of them bogged down in the damp sand and died. Otherwise, it appeared to be a harmless, green meadow.

DECKERS (Douglas) For Steve Decker, who had filed a mining claim there and operated a general store, cabins and postoffice. First known as DAFFODIL and changed to Deckers after his death.

DEER TRAIL (Arapahoe) The town is located where the deer used to go to drink out of Bijou Creek. It was founded and named by Oliver P. Wiggins, a frontiersman and scout.

DELAGUA (Las Animas) Spanish for "of the water" and refers to the "canon of the water".

DELCARBON (Las Animas) Spanish for "of the coal".

DEL NOTRE (Rio Grande) Spanish meaning "from the north", taking its name from the Spanish name of the "Rio Grande del Norte".

DELTA COUNTY (1883) Named for the city of Delta.

DELTA (Delta) Named for its location on the Delta of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison Rivers.

DENVER (Denver County) For General James Denver, Governor of Kansas Territory, in 1858, when Denver was named. It was in the Kansas Territory at that time. General Denver was born in America, but his branch of the family came from Denver, England, a town founded 1000 years ago with a population of about 400.

Denver was first known as MONTANA CITY (Spanish for mountains) and was settled in the vicinity of Overland Park. Denver had rival settlements—St. Charles City and Auroria, but both were later absorbed into Denver. Auroria was located at the junction of Cherry Creek and the Platte River. It is a Latin word meaning "Gold Town" and was the home town in Georgia of W. Green Russell, a prominent prospector.

Prior to 1902, Denver was the county seat of Arapahoe County.

There are 15 other cities and towns in the United States named Denver.

DERBY (Adams) Derby, England.

DEVINE (Pueblo) For Thomas Devine, general counsel for the Missouri Pacific R. R.

DICKEY (Summit) After Dickey Myers, the original owner of a ranch in the vicinity.

DILLON (Summit) In honor of Tom Dillon, gold seeker who disappeared, then turned up in Golden City (now Golden) more dead than alive. He talked of his trip over a high mountain pass (thought to be Ptarmigan) and finding a wide valley where three rivers met. Later explorers found that spot and named it Dillon.

DIVIDE (Teller) For the summit of Ute Pass where the front range divides.

DIX (Las Animas) For George B. Dick, President of the Dick Coal Company. It was called DICKS at one time but as there was another Post Office by that name, it was changed to DIX.

DOLORES COUNTY (1881) Named for the river which means in Spanish "River of Our Lady of Sorrows".

DOLORES (Montezuma) See Dolores County.

DOTSERO (Eagle) Named for the daughter of a Ute Indian Chief.

DOUGLAS COUNTY (1861) Stephen A. Douglas.

DOVE CREEK (Dolores) From the creek of the same name because of the many doves who habitated the region.

DOWNIEVILLE (Clear Creek) Named for Colonel Downey, a civil war veteran who spent a winter there on his way to California. There is also a town in California named for him. Another version is that John Colburn, an early settler from County Down in Ireland, may have named it. The Colonel Downey version seems to have greater acceptance.

DOYLE (Gunnison) For an early pioneer, Henry Doyle, who operated a stage line.

DUMONT (Clear Creek) For John M. Dumont, a mine owner. It was first called MILL CITY.

DUNKLEY (Routt) Named in 1894 for a family of early day ranchers, Bob, Richard, Tom, George and John Dunkley.

DUNTON (Dolores) For Horatio Dunton, owner of some hot springs located there.

DUPONT (Adams) For the Dupont Company as they had several buildings here for the storage of explosives.

DURANGO (La Plata) A Basque word meaning "watering town or place", and was named for Durango, Mexico, and before that the name came from Durango, Spain. The name was originally "Urango" "Ur" meaning "Water" and "Ango" meaning "Town". Durango was the watering point for the stage coach lines and wagon trains.

EADS (Kiowa) Named after Captain George Eads, an engineer, who built the Eads Bridge across the Mississippi River.

EAGLE COUNTY (1883) Named after the Eagle River which was so named for the bird. The river was at one time called the PINEY RIVER. It was also known as "RIO AQUILLA", Spanish for Eagle River.

EAGLE (Eagle) Named after the county. It was first called CASTLE because of rock formation resembling a castle nearby. Later called MC DONALD for an early settler.

EARL (Las Animas) So named for an early day resident. It was known earlier as EARLES and EARLE.

EASTLAKE (Adams) For East Lake, a half mile distant.

EATON (Weld) For Benjamin H. Eaton, the fourth State Governor of Colorado.

ECKERT (Delta) The maiden name of Mrs. Adelbert Slates, whose husband established the first store and Post Office there in 1891.

ECKLEY (Yuma) For Adam Eckles, an adaptation of his name. He was an early day cattle foreman.

EDGEWATER (Jefferson) Located on the shore of Sloan's Lake.

EDWARDS (Eagle) For Melvin Edwards, former postmaster of Redcliff. It was first called BERRY'S RANCH, in honor of Harrison Berry, owner of the town site. In 1883, officials of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad used their influence to have the name changed to EDWARDS in honor of his election to Secretary of State of Colorado.

EGNAR (San Miguel) The reverse for Range which was the name they had wanted to use, but since Range was already in existence, the letters were reversed.

ELBERT COUNTY (1874) For Samuel H. Elbert who was Colorado Governor when the county was created.

ELBERT (Elbert) Named for the county.

EL DORADO SPRINGS (Boulder) Spanish for "Golden" or "Gilded One".

ELECTRA LAKE (La Plata) From Greek mythology and so named by H. T. Henderson, an engineer, as the water was used for electric power development. It is an artificial lake developed for that purpose. Formerly known as IGNACIO LAKES and IGNACIO RESERVOIR. A small community in the area of the lake was called Bishop.

ELIZABETH (Elbert) Named by Governor John Evans in honor of his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Hubbard.

ELKTON (Teller) For the elk found in the area.

EL MORO (Las Animas) Spanish for "the Moor".

EL PASO COUNTY (1861) Spanish for "the pass" after Ute Pass. When the original seventeen Colorado counties were created, an unsuccessful amendment to change El Paso to Scudder County was defeated. Edwin Scudder was a member of the House at that time from El Paso County but took no part in the voting.

EMPIRE (Clear Creek) For the nickname of New York State. First known as VALLEY CITY.

ENGLEWOOD (Arapahoe) For the Illinois town near Chicago. The word is English "wood-ingle" meaning a wooded nook or corner. First called FISK'S GARDENS for A. C. Fisk, later known as ORCHARD PLACE because of the large apple orchards.

ERIE (Weld) For Erie, Pennsylvania and named by R. J. Van Valkenburgh who came from there in 1873.

ESPANOLA (Weld) Spanish for "Spanish Woman."

ESTES PARK (Larimer) Named for Noel Estes, the first settler.

ESTRELLA (Alamosa) Spanish for "star".

EUREKA (San Juan) From the Greek meaning "We have found it".

EVANS (Weld) Named for John Evans, the second Territorial Governor. In 1875-76 it was the county seat. Was first called STAGE for Bill Stage, brakeman for the Denver and Pacific Railroad.

EVERGREEN (Jefferson) For the dense forests of evergreens in the area. First called THE POST.

FAIRPLAY (Park) The founders wanted a town where "fair play" would prevail instead of lawlessness and claim jumping, and it was so named. It was also known as SOUTH PARK CITY, also TARRY-ALL CITY.

FALFA (La Plata) It was originally called ALFALFA for that crop which was raised in abundance. In 1904 when the Post Office was established, it was changed to FALFA as there was another ALFALFA in Larimer County.

FARISITA (Huerfano) Named for Jeanette Farris, daughter of Postmaster John Farris. In Spanish, it means "the little Farris lady". It was also called HUERFANO CANYON and later TALPA which became confused with Talpa, New Mexico, hence the change to Farisita.

FEDERAL HEIGHTS (Adams) For Federal Boulevard on which it is located.

FIRESTONE (Weld) For Jacob Firestone, owner of the town-site land.

FIRSTVIEW (Cheyenne) Where the first view of the Rocky Mountain range may be seen on a clear day, from the East.

FLAGLER (Kit Carson) Named in honor of Henry M. Flagler, a wealthy railroad man. It was first called MALOWE for M. A. Lowe, attorney for the Rock Island Railroad. Before this, it was called BOWSER, so named by a homesteader named Robinson for his favorite dog who had died. BOWSER or BOWSERVILLE was founded about 1888 and was located about three miles east of present Flagler. Later, the railroad located an excellent supply of underground water at the present site of FLAGLER and the community of BOWSER gradually moved to FLAGLER.

FLEMING (Logan) For H. B. Fleming, a representative of the Lincoln Land Company and laid out by him.

FLORENCE (Fremont) For Florence McCandless, daughter of Senator McCandless, an early refiner of oil in Florence. Florence is the second oldest oil field in the United States. It was first named FRAZER-VILLE.

FLORIDA (La Plata) Spanish for "little flower" named for the river mentioned and visited by Padre Escalante in 1776.

FLORISSANT (Teller) For Florissant, Missouri, the home town of Judge James Costello, who operated a trading post there. It is a French word which means "flowering".

FOCUS (Custer) From the location of the townsite, a fine view of the Wet Mountain Valley and the Sangre de Cristo Range comes into focus.

FONDIS (Elbert) From the name of an Italian Hotel "Fondi de Italia". It was one of four names suggested when a Post Office was named. It was suggested by Mrs. W. S. Burns, wife of the first Postmaster. The "S" was added to "FONDI" to make the name more rythmic.

FORDER (Lincoln) Named for Adolph Forder, an early day sheep and cattle rancher.

FORT COLLINS (Larimer) For Colonel W. O. Collins. It was first known as CAMP COLLINS.

FORT GARLAND (Costilla) Named for Commander John Garland. It was first named FORT MASSACHUSETTS.

FORT LUPTON (Weld) For Lt. Lancaster P. Lupton, who was a member of the expedition of Colonel Dodge in 1835. It was first called FORT LANCASTER.

FORT LYON (Bent) For General Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in the Civil War. It was first known as BENT'S FORT, then FORT FAUNTLEROY for Colonel Fauntleroy, later as FORT WISE for the governor of Virginia.

FORT MORGAN (Morgan) Named for Colonel Christopher A. Morgan. It also had been called CAMP TYLER and CAMP WARDWELL.

FORT WICKED (Logan) So named for Mr. H. Godfrey, station master, who was called "Old Wicked" by the Indians because of his fighting ability. The fort was located near Merino.

FOUNTAIN (El Paso) French for "the spring that boils".

FOWLER (Otero) For Professor O. S. Fowler, an eminent phrenologist who came here for his health and busied himself with the development of the community. Prior to 1890, it was known as OXFORD and before that it was called SYBIL for a railroad siding there.

FRANKTOWN (Douglas) James Frank Gardner, owner of the townsite. First known as CALIFORNIA RANCH and was the first county seat of Douglas County. Later called FRANK'S TOWN, then spelled FRANKSTOWN. Still later the Postal Authorities deleted the "S".

FRASER (Grand) After the Fraser River which received its name from an early settler named Reuben Frazier, but the spelling was later changed to FRASER. It was first called EASTOM for George Eastom.

FREDERICK (Weld) For Frederick A. Clark, owner of the townsite land.

FREMONT COUNTY (1861) In honor of General John C. Fremont, famous western explorer.

FRESH WATER PARK (Park) As the name indicates—for the fresh water found there. Formerly called GUFFY after J. K. Guffy, a pioneer settler. It was also once called IDAVILLE.

FRISCO (Summit) Named after San Francisco, adopting the short form.

FRYING PAN RIVER (Pitkin) Some trappers were attacked by the Utes and all but two were killed. One went for help, leaving the other who was seriously wounded in a cave for protection. He marked the spot with a frying pan in the forks of a tree. When he returned with soldiers, the wounded one was dead and the frying pan helped them to locate him. The river was named because of this incident.

FRUITA (Mesa) Spanish for "fruit".

GALETON (Weld) Named in honor of a girl named Gale who was the daughter of an early day family. It was first called ZITA.

GARCIA (Las Animas) For Jesus Maria Garcia, prominent settler and former county clerk.

GARCIA (Costilla) Named for a pioneer family of that name. It was first called MANZANARES.

GARDEN CITY (Weld) From the nickname of Greeley, "The Garden City of the West". It was so named because it joins the city limits of Greeley.

GARDNER (Huerfano) For Herbert Gardner, an early settler.

GARFIELD COUNTY (1883) For President James A. Garfield.

GARO (Park) For a Frenchman named Guiraud. It was hard to pronounce so they spelled it phonetically in English.

GATEWAY (Mesa) Believed named for nearby Gateway Canyon which has a pillar formation of rock at its entrance. Another version is that GATEWAY is the natural entranceway to the adjoining country to the south, west and north.

GENOA (Lincoln) Presumed to be named for Genoa, Italy.

GEORGETOWN (Clear Creek) For George Griffith, who discovered gold there and was also clerk of the local court.

GILCREST (Weld) Named for W. K. Gilcrest, an early day banker. It was first called NANTZ or NANTES.

GILL (Weld) For William H. Gill, owner of the townsite land.

GILMAN (Eagle) Named for Henry M. Gilman, a prominent mine owner. It was also known as CLINTON, BATTLE MOUNTAIN, and ROCK CREEK.

GILPIN COUNTY ((1861) For Colonel William Gilpin, the first Governor of Colorado.

GLENWOOD SPRINGS (Garfield) For Glenwood, Iowa, and the mineral springs in the vicinity. It was first called DEFIANCE, but changed to GLENWOOD HOT SPRINGS in 1883. DEFIANCE came from the defiant attitude of the miners towards Indians who controlled the hot springs there.

GOLDEN (Jefferson) Pioneer Tom Golden. Was the first capitol of the territory from 1862 until 1867. One report is that it was named for nearby Golden Gate Canyon, but most authorities credit Tom Golden.

GOLD FIELD (Teller) For the gold mining operations there.

GOODRICH (Morgan) For G. T. Goodrich, a Morgan County pioneer.

GORE (Grand) (also Gore Pass) Named for Sir George Gore, an early day British sportsman.

GOULD (Jackson) Named for Edward Bradley Gould, pioneer homesteader and rancher. The name first suggested was PENFOLD for a family of early day settlers, but through an error the Post Office Department listed it as PENCOLD. Since that name had no significance, it was changed by petition to GOULD.

GRANADA (Prowers) Originally located at the mouth of Granada Creek, for which it was probably named. It is a Spanish word meaning "end of the road". For some time this was the end of the railroad and also other roads as the river then kept washing out the trails until more modern machinery was available.

GRANBY (Grand) Named for Granby Hillyer, attorney for the Frontier Investment Company, who plotted and laid out the town. The company was sponsored by F. G. Bonfils of the Denver Post. The

town was started when the old Denver and Salt Lake Railroad terminated there in 1904.

GRAND COUNTY (1874) From the Grand River and Grand Lake.

GRAND LAKE (Grand) For the Grand River which in 1921 became the Colorado River.

GRAND JUNCTION (Mesa) So named because of its location at the junction of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. Once called UTE, also WEST DENVER.

GRAND VALLEY (Garfield) Named for the Grand River which was the name of the Colorado River prior to 1921.

GREELEY (Weld) Named for Horace Greeley.

GRAY'S PEAK (Clear Creek) For Dr. Osa Gray, a famous botanist.

GREENHORN (Pueblo) For the color and shape of a nearby mountain. The Spaniards called it "Guerno Verde" meaning the same thing.

GREENLAND (Douglas) Named by Helen Hunt Jackson, poetess and writer, who was impressed by its verdant surroundings.

GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS (El Paso) For the physical description of the falls and the mountain from which they come.

GROVER (Weld) Named by Maud Donovan, daughter of a pioneer settler, who gave it her mother's maiden name. The first post office was called CHATOGA, an Indian word meaning "Buffalo" and was one mile north of the present town. This community was first known as POINT OF ROCKS, which was too long, so the post office department changed it to Grover.

GUNNISON COUNTY (1877) Named for the river and town which honored Captain John W. Gunnison who explored the region in 1853 and was killed by Indians in Utah the same year.

GUNNISON (Gunnison) See Gunnison County. It was first known as RICHARDSON'S COLONY.

GYPSUM (Eagle) For the deposits of gypsum.

HAHN'S PEAK (Routt) For John and Joseph Hahn, prospectors.

HARTMAN (Prowers) For W. P. Hartman, Master Mechanic for the Santa Fe R. R. The location of BRISTOL and HARTMAN on early maps was reversed by mistake. Both owned farms in the area and were to be honored by naming a town on their land. Bristol, however, was put on Hartman's land and Hartman on Bristol's land, a mistake made by the map-maker and it was too much trouble to change.

HARTSEL (Park) For Samuel Hartsel, pioneer cattleman.

HASTY (Bent) For Lon Hasty, early day farmer.

HAXTUN (Phillips) For Haxtun Landing on the Hudson River in New York State which was the childhood home of Mr. Emerson of the Lincoln Landsite Company who developed the community. Another version is that it was named for a railroad contractor by the name of Haxtun. The first version carries greater acceptance.

HAYBRO (Routt) Named for the Hayden Brothers, coal operators.

HAYDEN (Routt) For V. G. Hayden, head of the U. S. Geological Survey.

HEENEY (Summit) Named for Paul Heeney, owner of a great deal of land bordering Green Mountain Dam when it was built in 1938, the date the town was established.

HENDERSON (Adams) Colonel Jack Henderson, pioneer freighter.

HESPERUS (La Plata) Named for Mount Hesperus, 12 miles northeast, by the Rio Grande and Southern Railroad. Hesperus is a Greek word meaning "evening star". Hesperus Peak was named for the schooner in Longfellow's poem "The Wreck of the Hesperus".

HILLROSE (Morgan) Mrs. Kate Emerson of Denver, who had deeded the land for the townsite, was permitted to name the town. The name HILLROSE is a reversed combination of her sister's name, Rose Hill Emerson.

HINSDALE COUNTY (1874) Named for George A. Hinsdale, pioneer leader in Southern Colorado, who was also Lt. Governor of Colorado.

HOEHNE (Las Animas) For Bill Hoehne, an early day settler.

HOLLY (Prowers) For Hiram S. Holly, a pioneer rancher, and for whom the Holly Sugar Company was also named.

HOLYOKE (Phillips) Named for Holyoke, Massachusetts, which in turn was named for the Reverend Edward Holyoke, who was President of Harvard University at an early date.

HOME (Larimer) Named by John R. Brown as his "Mountain Home". When applying for a post office, he was told there were too many "Mountain Homes", in the United States, so the word Mountain was omitted.

HOOPER (Alamosa) For Major S. Hooper, passenger agent for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. It was first known as GARRISON for an early day homesteader, but such name was confused with Gunnison and therefore changed to HOOPER.

HOOSIER PASS (Park) For Hoosier Gulch after early day settlers from Indiana.

HOTCHKISS (Delta) For Enos T. Hotchkiss, an early settler.

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS (Grand) For the hot springs found there. It was first called SARATOGA WEST for the famed watering place in New York state. It was also known as GRAND CITY.

HOWARD (Fremont) For John Howard, early day settler (1876). Howard Creek also bears his name.

HOYT (Morgan) For Dr. James A. Hoyt, son of Mrs. Sidney Davis Hoyt who homesteaded there in 1882.

HUDSON (Weld) Named for the Hudson City Land and Improvement Co., a corporation from Denver who purchased and developed the townsite land.

HUERFANO County (1861) Spanish for "orphan". Named for the HUERFANO RIVER which took its name from the Huerfano Butte, an isolated coneshaped butte north of Walsenburg. Antubes was the first county seat.

HUGO (Lincoln) For Richard Hugo, an early pioneer.

HUSTED (El Paso) For Calvin R. Husted, an early day sawmill operator.

HYGIENE (Boulder) For a sanitarium called Hygiene Home, built by Jacob S. Flory on 1880.

IDAHO SPRINGS (Clear Creek) From the Springs. Idaho meaning "Gem of the Mountains" or "Rocks". It was first called JACKSON'S DIGGINGS for George Jackson in 1859. Also called SACRAMENTO CITY and IDAHO CITY.

IDALIA (Yuma) Named for the wife of an early settler, Mrs. Edaliah Helmick. The change in the spelling made for simplification.

IGNACIO (La Plata) For Ignacio, a member of the Weminuche band of Utes. He was the son of a famous medicine man and not a chief by heredity. He was, however, a sub-chief under Chief Ouray and had charge of the Southern Utes. In 1895 Congress recognized his services and that body designated him as head Chief of the Utes.

ILIFF (Logan) For John Iliff, a cattle king.

INDEPENDENCE PASS (Lake) For a town called Independence which was so named on July 4th, 1879, when the Independence lode was discovered.

INMAN (Kiowa) Named for Colonel Henry Inman, author of "The Old Santa Fe Trail".

IOLA (Gunnison) Named by a rancher who thought the name had a pretty sound.

IONE (Weld) A Mr. W. A. Davis owner of the townsite land upon being queried as to ownership of land in the vicinity told the Union Pacific Railroad officials that he owned the property in all directions around there, so they thought "Ione" would be an appropriate name.

JACKSON COUNTY (1909) For Andrew Jackson.

JAROSO (Costilla) Spanish for "willows", so named by U. S. Congressman, Franklin Brooks.

JEFFERSON COUNTY (1861) President Thomas Jefferson.

JEFFERSON (Park) After Jefferson Lake and Jefferson Creek, both which honor President Thomas Jefferson.

JOES (Yuma) Among the early settlers were three men all having the same first name, Joe, and the town was originally called THREE JOES in their honor. It was later shortened to the persent form when the first post office was established.

JOHNSTOWN (Weld) Named by Harvey J. Parish who started the town and named it in honor of his son, John W. Parish.

JULESBURG (Sedgwick) Named for Jules Beni, operator of a trading post. Was also known at one time as OVERLAND CITY, also DENVER JUNCTION. This is where the first railroad and telegraph station in Colorado came into being. Telegraph messages received here and addressed to Denver were sent on by pony express until the lines were extended to Denver.

KARVAL (Lincoln) For G. K. Kravig, an early day homesteader. The Post Office Department, to avoid any error in spelling, suggested KARVAL, a derivation of the family name. Mr. Kravig was named the first postmaster.

KEENESBURG (Weld) Originally known as Keene after a rancher by that name. It was then only a sidetrack for loading livestock by the C. B. & Q. Railroad. The name was confused with Keene, Nebraska, so Mrs. Fannie Evans, the Postmistress, suggested the present name which was adopted by the Postal Department.

KELIM (Larimer) For Lee J. Kelim, a pioneer in the Loveland district. He operated a flour mill for years and also built and operated the first electric light plant in Loveland.

KENOSHA PASS (Park) For Kenosha, Wisconsin, the home town of Clark Herbert, a stage coach driver in that area in the early days. Kenosha is a Chippewa Indian word meaning "pike fish".

KEOTA (Weld) It is assumed that the name came from Keota, Iowa. It is an Indian word meaning "Gone to visit" or "The fire has gone out".

KERSEY (Weld) This was the maiden name of the mother of J. K. Painter, Roadmaster for the Union Pacific Railroad. It was first called ORR, after the first colonist, but this was confused with other points so the change was made to KERSEY.

KIM (Las Animas) Mrs. Simpson, wife of an early settler, was honored to suggest a name for this community. She suggested both Dexter and Kim, Dexter being her husband's first name and Kim being from Rudyard Kiplings' novel by the same name which she had recently read. After the voting, KIM won.

KIOWA COUNTY (1889) For the Kiowa Indians.

KIOWA (Elbert) Same as the county.

KIRK (Yuma) For A. Newkirk, the founder.

KIT CARSON COUNTY (1889) After the Indian Scout, Kit Carson.

KIT CARSON (Cheyenne) See Kit Carson County. It was formerly county seat of Greenwood County, the only Colorado County ever abolished.

KITTREDGE (Jefferson) For C. M. Kittredge, founder of the townsite and first Postmaster.

KOEN (Prowers) For Festus B. Koen and his brothers who were early settlers and builders of many of the present irrigation systems.

KOKOMO (Summit) An Indian word meaning "young grandmother". It is the highest incorporated town in Colorado, (10,618 feet). It was named after Kokomo Gulch which was so named by a group of men from Kokomo, Indiana, their home town.

KREMMLING (Grand) For Kare Kremmling, General Store manager. Once known as KINSEY CITY for John and Aaron Kinsey, early ranchers. Sometimes the mail was addressed to "118 Miles West of Denver".

KUTCH (Elbert) For Ira Kutch, a cattleman.

LODORE CANYON (Moffat) Named from Robert Southey's poem, "How the Water Comes Down at Lodore". Major John Wesley Powell suggested the name.

LAFAYETTE (Boulder) For Lafayette Miller, husband of Mary E. Miller, owner of the townsite land.

LA GARITA (Saguache) Named for the peak west of town. It is a Spanish word meaning "the lookout" or loosely "the signal" also "the sentry box". The Indians used to send smoke signals from this peak to the Sangre de Cristo Range across the Valley. The slang version means "seats of an out-house".

LAIRD (Yuma) For Congressman James Laird of Nebraska.

LA JARA (Conejos) Spanish for "willow brush" or "undergrowth". It was first called LLANO BLANCO meaning "white plains". Next it was called TANK as the railroad water tank was the only structure there.

LA JUNTA (Otero) Spanish for "The Junction" because it is the junction of the Santa Fe Trail and the road leading to Pueblo. It was first called OTERO.

LAKE CITY (Hinsdale) Named for Lake San Cristobal which in English is St. Christopher, the patron saint of travel. (It is one of the largest natural lakes in Colorado.)

LAKE COUNTY (1861) For Twin Lakes. The first county seat was DAYTON in 1866 which was near Twin Lakes. In 1868 the county seat was moved to GRANITE, later to ORO CITY. The present county seat is LEADVILLE.

LAMAR (Prowers) For L. Q. C. Lamar, Secretary of Interior. It was originally named in his honor with the hope of securing a govern-

ment land office. Prior to the existence of Lamar, another town site near Pueblo was temporarily called Lamar, but it soon passed out of existence.

LA PLATA COUNTY (1874) Spanish for "silver" discovered by the Spaniards in the 18th century. The first county seat was HOWARDSVILLE, a few miles from Silverton and now a ghost town. In 1876 San Juan County was formed and HOWARDSVILLE became that county seat until SILVERTON was so designated. After HOWARDSVILLE, PARROTT CITY was the county seat of La Plate County. DURANGO is the present county seat.

LA PORTE (Larimer) French for "The Door" and so named because it is geographically the door to the mountains. It was the first county seat.

LARIMER COUNTY (1861) For General William Larimer, the founder of Denver. It was originally decided to call it LA PORTE, but at the last minute Larimer was substituted. La Porte was the first county seat.

LARKSPUR (Douglas) For the Larkspur which covers the surrounding hills.

LA SALLE (Weld) Named by the Union Pacific for their station and the street by that name in Chicago.

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY (1866) From the river "El Rio de las Animas Perdidos en Purgatorio", the Spanish for "The River of the Souls Lost in Purgatory".

The legend of this name is as follows: A Spanish exploration party was journeying to Colorado in search of the mythical "Lost Cities of Gold". Several greedy members of the party deserted and went ahead on their own. Some time later when the main party reached Colorado in the vicinity of Trinidad, they found the bodies of the deserters on the banks of this river. They apparently had been killed by Indians. The priest in the party "condemmed their souls to hell" for their acts.

LAS ANIMAS (Bent) Same as Las Animas county.

LASAUSEO (Conejos) Spanish for "willows" as there are many in the area.

LAVALLEY (Costilla) Combination French and English for "the valley".

LA VETA (Huerfano) Spanish for "the vein". It was so named by the Mexicans for a vein of white mineral known as "yaso" located at the foot of Pinon Hill, just north of La Veta. The mineral was used

by them to whitewash the dwellings. The town was first called FRANCISCO PLAZA in honor of Colonel J. M. Francisco who lived there. There is also La Veta Pass and La Veta Creek, which were named for the town.

LAWSON (Clear Creek) For Alexander Lawson, an innkeeper whose inn was called "Six Mile House".

LAY CREEK (Moffat) Named after Mr. Lay, a fur trapper, who was the first white settler in that area and who lived on the stream. Another version is that it was named for an early day army camp called Camp Lay which was so named by a Lieutenant McCulloch honoring his sweetheart who lived in Chicago by the name of Peace Lay.

LAZEAR (Delta) For J. B. Lazear, a land owner.

LEADVILLE (Lake) This was the legal name given the city on January 14, 1878, and was named by H. A. W. Tabor for the lead in the area. The community was first settled in CALIFORNIA GULCH and known by that name. It was also called BOUGHTOWN because the temporary shelters were made of tree boughs. The area was also known as SLABTOWN because of the number of temporary slab houses which were built. It was also known as CLOUD CITY because the community was nestled in the clouds. It was also known as HARRISON after Edwin Harrison, president of the St. Louis Smelting and Refining Company and owner of the first smelter there. Harrison Avenue in Leadville is also named for him. Adjoining Leadville was a community called STRINGTOWN, built along the highway where smelter workers lived. It was presumably called STRINGTOWN because of the string of small buildings on either side of the highway.

LEBANON (Montezuma) For the dense setting of cedars in that locality such as existed in the bibical Lebanon.

LEOPARD CREEK (San Miguel) From a leopard supposed to have been seen in the area. The story has been discounted, yet the name remains.

LIMON (Lincoln) After a railroad foreman of the Rock Island R. R. It was first called LIMON'S CAMP, then LIMON'S JUNCTION (for the Rock Island and Union Pacific R. R. Junction). The present name was adopted in 1909.

LINCOLN COUNTY (1889) For President Abraham Lincoln.

LITTLETON (Arapahoe) Richard Little, civil engineer.

LIVERMORE (Larimer) There is no official information. One version is that it is a coined name from the names of two men, Moore and Livernash, who were early day residents of the area.

LOBATOS (Conejos) Spanish for "young wolves". Formerly called CENICERO, Spanish for "ash heap".

LOGAN COUNTY (1887) For General John A. Logan.

LOMA (Mesa) Spanish for "small hills".

LONGMONT (Boulder) After Long's Peak.

LONGS PEAK (Larimer) For Major Stephen D. Long. The early French trappers called it "Les Deux Oreilles" meaning "The Two Ears". It was first ascended in 1868 by William N. Byers.

LOS CERRITOS (Conejos) Spanish for "Little Hills".

LOUISVILLE (Boulder) Named for an early day miner, Louis Nowotny.

LOUVIERS (Douglas) A Dupont Company town. Named for Louviers, Delaware, where the DuPonts established a woolen factory, the first step in their financial success. This town was established 1906, as an explosives operation. The Delaware town was named for Louviers, France, which was the center of the woolen industry in France, from which the Duponts' came as woolen manufacturers.

LOVELAND (Larimer) For W. A. Loveland, President of the Colorado Central Railroad. It was first known as OLD ST. LOUIS.

LOVELAND PASS (Summit) For W. A. H. Loveland, President of the Colorado Central Railroad who laid out a trail over the pass. See Loveland also.

LUCERNE (Weld) A common name for alfalfa, which is raised here in abundance.

LULU (Grand) For Lulu Burnett, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Burnett. The headwaters of the Colorado River are here.

LYONS (Boulder) For Mrs. Carrie Lyons, pioneer editor of the Lyons News.

MACK (Mesa) For John W. Mack, President of an asphalt company.

MANASSA (Conejos) Named for the eldest son of Joseph of Israel in the Bible. It is a Morman settlement and so named by them. It is the birth place of Jack Dempsey, former world's heavy weight champion.

MANCOS (Montezuma) Named for the river of the same name. It is a Spanish word meaning "one-handed", "faulty" or "crippled". The river was so named because a member of Padre Escalantes' party,

which was exploring in the vicinity, fell from his horse while fording the river and injured his hand.

MANITOU (El Paso) Indian for "great spirit".

MANZANOLA (Otero) Spanish for "Red Apple" because of the early day orchards in that area. It was first called CATLIN after an early settler for whom the Catlin Ditch was named.

MARBLE (Gunnison) So named because of the local marble quarries. The marble from here was used in the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D. C.

MARSHALL (Boulder) For Joseph M. Marshall, who discovered coal there. The name was officially changed in 1882 to LANGFORD for N. P. and A. G. Langford of the Marshall Coal Company. The settlement continued to be known, however, as MARSHALL.

MASTERS (Weld) For a cattleman by that name who owned the land adjoining the town.

MATHESON (Elbert) In honor of Duncan Matheson, an early day sheep man, on whose land the town was built.

MAYBELL (Moffat) The first post office was at Bell and Banks' Ranch and was named for Mr. Bell's wife, May.

MC CLAVE (Bent) For B. I. McClave, who in 1892 homesteaded the land where the town now stands.

MC COY (Eagle) For Charles H. McCoy, a rancher.

MC PHEE (Montezuma) Named for C. D. McPhee of the McPhee Lumber Company in Denver who once operated a lumber mill there.

MEAD (Weld) In honor of Dr. Martin S. Mead, who homesteaded there in 1886.

MEEKER (Rio Blanco) For Nathan C. Meeker, Indian Agent.

MENDICANT RANGE (Gunnison) For an old prospector who frequented this region and developed into a mendicant begging flour and tobacco from the Indians and Whites. This range was formerly known as CATHEDRAL PEAKS.

MERINO (Logan) Named for huge flocks of merino sheep raised in the community. It was formerly called BUFFALO prior to 1881.

MESA COUNTY (1883) Spanish for "table".

MESA VERDE (Montezuma) Spanish for "green table".

MESSEX (Washington) For Joe Messex, an early day railroader, who was killed in that vicinity while so employed.

MILLIKEN (Weld) In honor of John D. Milliken, founder of the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railroad and President of Southwestern Land and Iron Company.

MINERAL COUNTY (1893) So named for its mineral resources. "Where there is more country standing on end than anywhere else under the sun".

MINNEQUA (Pueblo) An Indian word meaning "to drink".

MINTURN (Eagle) For Thomas Minturn, roadmaster for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

MODEL (Las Animas) This was intended to be a "model" town with its own irrigation district and plotted townsite. It was called POSO (Spanish for "dry hole") until 1920 when it was changed to MODEL.

MOFFAT COUNTY (1911) Named for David H. Moffat, pioneer banker.

MOFFAT (Saguache) For David H. Moffat, then president of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad which line served this town.

MOGOTE (Conejos) For the nearby mountain peaks called the Mogotes which is Spanish for "Peaked stacks of corn" which the peaks resemble.

MOLAS LAKE and DIVIDE (San Juan) Spanish for "moles". There were great numbers of them in the moist ground around the lake.

MONARCH PASS (Chaffee) For the Monarch mining district.

MONTE VISTA (Rio Grande) Spanish for "mountain view" and so named in 1886. It was first called LARIAT in 1884 then changed to HENRY for T. C. Henry, an early day land promoter in the valley.

MONTEZUMA COUNTY (1889) For the Aztec Chief of Mexico City whom Cortez conquered, whose follower's were once thought to occupy the cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde.

MONTROSE COUNTY (1883) See Montrose for which it was named.

MONTROSE (Montrose) Named after Montrose, Scotland, from Sir Walter Scotts' "The Legend of Montrose". Named by Joe Selig, a great admirer of Sir Walter Scott. This city was first called OURAY JUNCTION.

MONUMENT (El Paso) For the rock formation to the west. Formerly known as HENRY STATION.

MORGAN COUNTY (1889) Named for Fort Morgan.

MORLEY (Las Animas) There are two versions. One is that it was named for Tom Morley, local coal mine owner. The other, that it was named for William R. Morley, a construction engineer for the Santa Fe R. R. who laid out the railroad in the vicinity in 1879 and also surveyed the Santa Fe line over Raton Pass.

MORRISON (Jefferson) George Morrison, pioneer homesteader.

MOSCA (Alamosa) Spanish for "fly" and named for Mosca Pass. Another version of the name is that it is a contraction of the name of Luis de Moscosco who led a Spanish expedition westward into this area in 1542. Mosca Pass is also referred to as Music Pass because of the musical sounds coming from the nearby sand dunes.

MOUNT ELBERT (Lake) The highest peak in the state and named in honor of Governor Samuel H. Elbert by the miners.

MOUNT EVANS (Clear Creek) For Governor John Evans, Territorial Governor of Colorado.

MOUNT HARRIS (Routt) For George W. Harris, an officer of the Colorado and Utah Coal Company which company had large interests there.

MT. HARVARD, MT. PRINCETON, MT. YALE and MT. COLUMBIA (Chaffee) Known as the Collegiate Range. Named by J. D. Whitney who discovered the first three of the four named peaks. Whitney was head of the Harvard Mining School and also a graduate therefrom. It was natural that he should give them Ivy College names.

MOUNT SOPRIS (Garfield) Named for Richard Sopris, who headed a private party of fourteen men from Denver in July, 1860, on an exploration trip to this area during which time the mountain was discovered and named in his honor.

MUTUAL (Huerfano) From a mine which was mutually operated by several persons.

MYSTIC (Routt) For Mystic, Iowa, by Fred May, an early settler, who came from there, and which name originally came from Mystic, Connecticut.

NATHROP (Chaffee) After an early day settler named Charles Nachtrieb. It is not clear why the name was changed except that Nathrop was shorter and easier to pronounce.

NATURITA (Montrose) Spanish for "little nature" as it is in a beautiful setting of trees on the banks of a stream as compared with some of the barren country surrounding it. Named by Mrs. Blake, an early settler.

NEDERLAND (Boulder) Means "Low Land" and was named by the Dutch syndicate which owned the mines at Caribou. Was formerly known as BROWNSVILLE, MIDDLE BOULDER and TUNGSTEN TOWN.

NEPESTA (Pueblo) From the Spanish name for the Arkansas River, "Rio Nepesta".

NEWCASTLE (Garfield) Named after the coal mining town in England. In 1866, it was known as GRAND BUTTE but in 1867, changed to CHAPMAN. In 1888 it became NEWCASTLE and so named by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

NEW DEAL (Fremont) Named in 1933 for the slogan of the Roosevelt Administration. Hoard City was also suggested as a name and in a heated election NEW DEAL won out. The new community was created by a gold strike in the area.

NEW RAYMER (Weld) In honor of George Raymer, assistant Chief Engineer of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad. It was first called RAYMER, but changed to NEW RAYMER to avoid confusion with RAMAH.

NINAVIEW (Bent) Named for Nina Jones, daughter of an early day settler, blacksmith and store-owner. There was a particular view from their home which Nina liked and her parents called it Nina's view. When the settlement grew and a name was needed, Mr. and Mrs. Jones were given the honor of naming it, so thy called it NINAVIEW.

NIWOT (Boulder) Named for an Arapahoe Chief named "Nawat", meaning left hand. The town is located on Left Hand Creek which originates in a canyon by the same name. All of these took their names from the Chief.

NORWOOD (San Miguel) Named and founded in 1885 by L. M. Copp, who named it for his home town in Missouri.

NUCLA (Montrose) Corruption of "nucleus", meaning a center. The town was organized in 1904 by the Colorado Co-Operative Company as a socialistic farm colony. The name was suggested by C. E. Williams as he believed the movement would spread and their town would be the center of the movement.

NUNN (Weld) For Tom Nunn, who forestalled a wreck by flagging down a Union Pacific train before it ran into a collapsed culvert.

It was so named by the Railroad in his honor. This community was first called MAYNARD.

OAK CREEK (Routt) From the scrub oak in the area.

OHIO CITY (Gunnison) Named for Ohio Creek and possibly for the Ohio River. Ohio is an Iroquois Indian word meaning "beautiful river".

OLATHE (Montrose) Named for Olathe, Kansas, and is a Shawnee Indian word meaning "beautiful". Olathe, Kansas, is known as Olathe, the City Beautiful. First known as BROW, then COLOROW. Colorow was a Ute Indian Chief who was active in this area with Chief Ouray.

OLNEY SPRINGS (Crowley) For a Mr. Olney, a representative of the Missouri Pacific R. R. when their track was laid here.

OPHIR (San Miguel) Bibical name for the location of King Solomon's mines. The early day miners had hopes that their mines would produce the wealth which King Soloman's had done.

ORCHARD (Morgan) For "Fremont's Orchard". (John C. Fremont) The orchard, however, was a large cluster of stunted cottonwood trees which at a distance resembled an orchard.

ORCHARD CITY (Delta) So named for the fruit orchards in the area.

ORDWAY (Crowley) For George N. Ordway, ex-alderman of Denver and successful businessman of Ordway.

ORESTOD (Eagle) The reverse spelling of DOTSERO on the other end of the D. & R. G. cut-off.

ORO CITY (Lake) Spanish word meaning "gold". At one time it was also the county seat of Lake county. It is now a deserted mining town a short distance from Leadville.

ORTIZ (Conejos) For J. Nestor Ortiz, its founder.

OTERO COUNTY (1889) For Miguel Otero, a member of a prominent Spanish family in southern Colorado. He founded La Junta.

OTIS (Washington) Supposedly named for Dr. W. O. Otis, an early day resident. Later research states, however, that Dr. Otis did not arrive there until the town was laid out and named.

OURAY COUNTY (1877) For the Ute Indian Chief Ouray. One version of the Indian meaning of Ouray is "ure" or "arrow". Another is that it is a Ute corruption of "Willie". The County was first called UNCOMPAHGRE, but three days later, it was changed to

OURAY. It was the first county created under the statehood of Colorado.

OURAY (Ouray) See Ouray county.

OVID (Sedgwick) For Newton Ovid, a bachelor in that neighborhood.

OXFORD (La Plata) Oxford was chosen because it sounded better than the original name of GROMMET.

PADRONI (Logan) For George and Tom Padroni, two Italian farmers.

PAGOSA SPRINGS (Archuleta) From the Indian name Pagosah meaning "healing waters" or "hot waters".

PAISAJE (Conejos) Spanish word meaning "pretty place". It was originally named SAN RAFAEL. When application was made for a post office, the department said that mail would become confused with San Rafael, California, so the name PAISAJE was chosen.

PALISADE (Mesa) So named because of the high perpendicular cliffs in the area. The formations are similar to the renowned Palisades of the Hudson River.

PALMER LAKE (El Paso) For General William J. Palmer of the Denver and Rio Grande R. R. It was first called LOCH KATRINE, then renamed PALMERO for General Palmer, but custom decided on PALMER LAKE.

PANDO (Eagle) Spanish for "slow of motion as applied to deep waters". This community is located on the Eagle River and apparently the waters are quiet and deep here.

PAOLI (Phillips) For Paoli, Pennsylvania. Named by one of the chief engineers of the C. B. & Q. Railroad when putting their line through. Paoli, Pennsylvania, was named after an Italian General Pasquale Paoli, who lived on the Island of Corsica and who led his people in an historic but unsuccessful struggle against French domination. There is also a humerous, homespun story of how the town was named. A Swedish workman named "Ole" was employed in laying the track and he became angry at his boss. He went to the timekeeper and said, "I quit, pay Ole."

PAONIA (Delta) Founded in 1881 by Samuel Wade who suggested the name Peaonia, which is the genus of the peony flower. The Postal Authorities changed it to PAONIA.

PAPETON (El Paso) For John H. Pape, one of the men who laid out the town.

PARADOX (Montrose) Named for Paradox Valley and that was so named because the Dolores River cuts through its cliff walls at right angles, an unusual phenomenon.

PARK COUNTY (1861) From South Park where the county is located.

PARKER (Douglas) James S. Parker, pioneer postmaster. First known as PINE GROVE.

PARLIN (Gunnison) Named for John Parlin, a dairy rancher.

PARMA (Rio Grande) For Parma, Idaho, which in turn was named for a duchy in Northern Italy which was noted for its fertile soil. The Colorado name was suggested by Peter Sommers and his sons who operated a nearby ranch known as the Parma Ranch. Sommers was also interested in a land and irrigation project in Parma, Idaho, and that is the reason for choosing that name for his ranch. He also gave the same name to the post office which is now abandoned. Parma now is only a railroad siding.

PARROTT CITY (La Plata) For Tabucio Parrott of the banking house of Parrott and Company of San Francisco, backers of a prospecting expedition to the San Juan Basin. The name was later changed to LA PLATA.

PEARL (Jackson) Named in honor of Pearl Burnett, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Burnett.

PEETZ (Logan) For Peter Peetz, a pioneer homesteader.

PENROSE (Fremnot) For Spencer Penrose, a Colorado Springs captialist and philanthropist.

PEYTON (El Paso) For George Peyton, an early settler. The first name suggested was Mayfield which was refused by the Post Office Department.

PHILLIPS COUNTY (1889) Named for R. O. Phillips of the Lincoln Land Company who organized a number of eastern Colorado towns.

PHIPPSBURG (Routt) Named in honor of U. S. Senator Phipps. It was originally called WILSON, but when applying for a post office, they were informed there were other towns named WILSON in the state, so it was named for the Senator.

PICEANCE (Rio Blanco) Indian word for "tall grass". It was first in two words PICE ANCE, but later combined.

PICKETWIRE — A local name for the PURGATOIRE RIVER. When the French trappers pronounced PURGATOIRE, it sounded very much like PICKETWIRE and it is still so called by many of the natives.

PICTOU (Huerfano) For Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada. So named by Tommy Lowther, mine superintendent, who came from there. It was formerly called SULPHUR SPRINGS for the twenty-one sulphur springs located nearby.

PIEDRA (Archuleta) Spanish for "rocks" or "stones".

PIERCE (Weld) In honor of General John Pierce, former surveyor general of Colorado Territory and one-time President of the Denver-Pacific Railroad.

PIKES PEAK (Teller) For Zebulon Pike, the explorer who discovered it.

PINNEO (Washington) For B. F. Pinneo, a deputy Sheriff.

PITKIN COUNTY (1881) For Frederick W. Pitkin, Governor when the county was formed.

PITKIN (Gunnison) For Frederick W. Pitkin, Governor of Colorado.

PLACERVILLE (San Miguel) For the placer mines in the area.

PLATORO (Conejos) A coined word from the Spanish meaning "silver and gold".

PLATTE RIVER Named by the Mallet Brothers, French Explorers. They called it "Rivere la Platte" which is the French translation of the Spanish name "Rio de Chato" meaning "shallow or thin". It was also known at one time as "Rio Jesus Maria".

PLATTEVILLE (Weld) For the Platte River.

PONCHA SPRINGS (Chaffee) Indian word for "tobacco". So named because Joe Hartwick, an early settler successfully cultivated tobacco for his own use. He used the water from the hot springs for irrigation.

PONCHA PASS (Saguache) Indian word for "tobacco". See Poncha Springs.

PORTLAND (Fremont) For the Portland process of manufacturing cement in Portland, England. This is a Company town of the Ideal Cement Co.

POSTA (La Plata) Spanish for "A place for travelers to stop

and rest". It was a resting place for stage coaches between Durango and Farmington, New Mexico. Also known as LA POSTA.

POUDRE (Larimer) See Cache la Poudre.

POWDERHORN (Gunnison) There are two versions. One is that the Cebolla Valley has the appearance on the map of a huge powderhorn. The second one is that one of the first white men in the area found a powderhorn on the mouth of a stream (now called Powderhorn Creek) which flows into the Cebolla River.

PRIMERO (Las Animas) Meaning "The First". It was the first of five mining operations opened by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in that area in 1904.

PRITCHETT (Baca) In honor of Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, a director of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R.

PROWERS COUNTY (1889) For John W. Prowers, pioneer of the Arkansas Valley.

PRYOR (Huerfano) For Mack and Ike Pryor, early day cattlemen. The local coal company adopted their family name for the corporate name.

PUEBLO COUNTY (1861) Named for the City of Pueblo which is Spanish for "town" or "village".

PUEBLO (Pueblo) Named for FORT PUEBLO, a circular adobe structure built in 1842. The original settlement was wiped out on Christmas of 1854 by Indians. In 1858 a town of FOUNTAIN was started on the east bank of the mouth of Fountain Creek. During the winter a group from Independence, Missouri, established a rvial settlement on the west bank of Fountain Creek which finally absorbed the earlier town of Fountain. It was known then as INDEPENDENCE, but was later changed to PUEBLO.

PURGATOIRE RIVER — The short name of the river officially known as EL RIO DE LAS ANIMAS PERDIDOS EN PURGATORIO.

PURITAN (Weld) For the local Puritan Coal Mine which was so named for the high qualty of the coal.

QUINTO (Las Animas) Meaning "The Fifth". It was the fifth and last mining operation in that area opened by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in 1904.

RABBIT EARS PASS (Routt) For the rock formation resembling two rabbit ears.

RAMAH (El Paso) Named by the wife of a Rock Island Railroad offical. She took the name from a book on India which she was reading. RAMAH appeared in the book.

RAND (Jackson) For Charles Rand, the first settler in 1883. Another version is that it was named for J. A. Rand, frontier scout.

RANGELY (Rio Blanco) Named for Rangely, Massachusetts, the home town of Mr. D. B. Case, a trading post operator.

RAVENWOOD (Huerfano) For ravens seen in that area.

RECEN (Summit) Named for three brothers, Andrew, Henry and David Recen. It was incorporated in 1880.

REDCLIFF (Eagle) For the quartz formation there.

RED FEATHER LAKES (Larimer) Named for Chief Redfeather.

RICO (Dolores) Spanish for "rich". Many names were suggested such as Carbon City, Carbonateville, Lead City and Dolores City, but Rico was the choice. It was formerly the county seat.

RIDGWAY (Ouray) Named for R. M. Ridgway, Superintendent of the Mountain Division of the Denver and Rio Grande R. R. in 1891. It was first called DALLAS.

RIFLE (Garfield) After Rifle Creek, which received its name by a group of soldiers who, while surveying, left a rifle that was later recovered on the bank of the creek.

RILAND (Garfield) Named for "Dad" Riland, first settler in this vicinity.

RIO BLANCO COUNTY (1889) Spanish for "white river".

RIO GRANDE COUNTY (1874) For the River Rio Grande Del Norte, Spanish for "river from the north".

RIVER BEND (Elbert) Located at the bend in Big Sandy Creek.

ROCKY FORD (Otero) So named because it is located at a suitable gravel-lined ford across the Arkansas River.

ROGGEN (Weld) Believed to honor Edward P. Roggin, Secretary of State of Nebraska in 1885.

ROLLINSVILLE (Gilpin) After the founder of the townsite, John Q. A. Rollins. It was a town unique among early camps in that saloons, gambling houses or dancehalls were not allowed.

ROMEO (Conejos) For an early settler named Romero. There were other communities named Romero, so upon the suggestion of the Post Office Department the "R" was dropped and it became ROMEO. It was first known as SUNFLOWER.

ROSITA (Custer) Spanish for "small rose" and named by early prospectors and miners of the country.

ROUTT COUNTY (1877) Named to honor John L. Routt, last Territorial Governor and first State Governor of Colorado.

RUGBY (Las Animas) For Rugby, England. So named by an Englishman who owned mines in the vicinity.

RUSSELL (Costilla) For W. Green Russell, who discovered gold in Gray Back Gulch. It was also known as PLACER by the old timers.

RUSSELL GULCH (Gilpin) For W. Green Russell, a prospector.

RYE (Pueblo) Accepted explanation is that the townsite was located in a field of wild rye. Another version is that the postmaster suggested the name of "Table Mountain" but this was rejected because it was too long. He then suggested "Old Rye" (a whiskey) and the "Old" was eliminated.

SAGUACHE COUNTY (1866) A Ute Indian word meaning "blue earth" or "water at the blue earth". It took its name from Saguache Creek.

SAGUACHE (Saguache) A Ute Indian word meaning "blue earth" or "water at the blue earth". As did the county, the town took its name from Saguache Creek. The first settlement was known as MILTON which was originally located one mile away from the present site. The land at Milton was marshy and unsuitable for a townsite, hence the move. Some buildings were actually moved in the process.

ST. PETERS (Logan) For Pete Lousberg who donated the ground for a Catholic Church built in 1912. The priests honored him for so doing.

ST. VRAIN RIVER (Larimer) For Ceran St. Vrain, who was associated with the Bent Brothers in trading enterprises.

SALIDA (Chaffee) From its location at the west end of the canyon and at the entrance of the valley. Salida is a Spanish word meaning "outlet" or "departure". It was first known as SOUTH ARKANSAS.

SALINA (Boulder) So named by a group of miners who had lived in Salina, Kansas.

SAMS (San Miguel) An early day saw mill operator.

SAN ACACIO (Costilla) For Saint Acacius.

SANFORD (Conejos) A Morman community named in honor of Silas Sanford Smith, the first president of the San Luis Stake. It was first known as EPHRAIM, the younger son of Joseph of Israel in the Bible.

SANGRE DE CRISTO (Saguache) Spanish for "blood of Christ". In 1647 when Juan de Onate and his band of conquistadores, under a warrant from the King of Spain, were searching for the Seven Cities of Cibola which were the legendary cities whose streets were paved with gold, they rested one evening on the shores of San Luis Lake which is in Northern Alamosa County. One of the priests in the party was on the lake in a small boat when an Indian arrow pierced his breast. It was in the autumn and as the dying priest gazed at the mountains to the east and saw the reflection of the sun on the red leaves of scrub oak, he exclaimed, as he fell dying, "Sangre de Cristo".

SAN JUAN COUNTY (1876) Spanish for "St. John". The name was first given by early Spanish explorers to the river and the mountain range and subsequently adopted for the general region and the county.

SAN LUIS (Costilla) For the patron saint Saint Louis. It is the oldest town in the state (1851). It was first called CULEBRA, Spanish for "snake" after the Culebra River which winds like a snake throughout the countryside. It was next known as PLAZA DEL MEDIS, Spanish for "center village" because of its geographical location to San Pedro which was referred to as the "Upper Culebra" and San Acacia, known as "Lower Culebra".

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY (1883) Spanish for St. Michael and named for the river. It was originally a part of OURAY COUNTY.

SAPINERO (Gunnison) Named for a Ute chief who was Chipeta's brother, Chipeta being the wife of Chief Ouray. It is taken from the Indian word "sabinero" or "sabinal" meaning a "juniper tree grove" or "small cedar trees".

SARGENTS (Saguache) For Joseph Sargent, early day rancher. In 1880 a post office was secured and called MARSHALLTOWN and Sargent was the first postmaster. Two years later, it was changed to SARGENTS in his honor.

SEDALIA (Douglas) Named by an early settler, Mr. Clay, for Sedalia, Missouri. It had previously been known as PLUM STATION or TOWN OF PLUM for the wild plum trees in the area.

SEDGWICK COUNTY (1889) Named for General John Sedgwick.

SEDGWICK (Sedgwick) For Fort Sedgwick which was named for General John Sedgwick.

SEGUNDO (Las Animas) Meaning "The Second". It was the second of five mining operations opened in that area by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in 1904.

SEIBERT (Kit Carson) For Henry Seibert, an official of the Rock Island Railroad.

SEMPER (Boulder) Named for Charles Semper, an early day resident.

SEVERANCE (Weld) David Severance, an early homesteader, donated some of his land for the starting of the town. It was first called TAILHOLT.

SHAFFER'S CROSSING (Jefferson) For Samuel Shaffer who had extensive land ownership and who donated the land for the townsite.

SHAWNEE (Park) Named after Shawnee Peak which looms in the distance.

SHERIDAN (Arapahoe) General Sheridan. Community so named after the incorporation of Sheridan Park, Military Park and Petersburg.

SHERIDAN LAKE (Kiowa) Named for Colonel Phil Sheridan, who hunted buffalo in the area.

SHOSHONE (Garfield) For the Shoshone Indians.

SILT (Garfield) Named by the Rio Grande railroad because of the nature of the soil.

SILVER CLIFF (Custer) So named because of the rich silver ore discovered in a cliff at the edge of town. It was incorporated in 1879.

SILVER PLUME (Clear Creek) For a mine in the district. The mine is said to have been named from the white streaks of silver metal in the ore which resembles silver plumes. Another version of the naming of the mine was from the waterfall in the canyon nearby, the spray of which looked like a silver plume as it rose in the air. One source credits an

early day miner with the name. He expected to uncover a rich vein of ore and said if he did he told his wife she would be wearing silver plumes on her hat. He did strike a rich vein and then decided to call his mine and the town SILVER PLUME. Here is still another story. On the high slope of a mountain in back of the mine, the snow laid in the many ravines most of the summer. From a distance, the snow resembled a silver plume. (Take your pick.)

SILVERTON (San Juan) For the silver mines in the area. It was first called BAKER'S PARK.

SIMLA (Elbert) Named by the wife of an official of the Rock Island Railroad, who suggested it from a book she was reading on India in which the name was mentioned.

SINBAD (Montrose) From the Arabian Nights story of "Sinbad the Sailor". So named because of its inaccessibility and the fact that Sinbad traveled to distant and inaccessible places.

SKULL CREEK (Moffat) So named because a human skull was found in the creek.

SLUMGULLION PASS (Hinsdale) During wet weather on the pass, the soil resembles the color of slumgullion stew, with its brown and red colors.

SNYDER (Morgan) For J. W. Snyder, pioneer cattleman.

SOMERSET (Gunnison) For Somerset, Pennsylvania, a coal mining town which in turn was named for a coal mining town in Peru.

SOPRIS (Las Animas) For General E. B. Sopris of the Colorado Militia who commanded the troops which fought the Indians when the Santa Fe Trail was being established. He was a pioneer in the country and also owned much of the coal land in the area.

SPANISH PEAKS (Huerfano) Also called by the Indian name HUAJATOLLA meaning "breasts of the world". Another version is that Huajatolla means "from where the storms come" and that the peaks are known as "Las Chiches" a slang word in Spanish meaning "breasts". The first version is most accepted.

SPRINGFIELD (Baca) For Springfield, Missouri.

STARKVILLE (Las Animas) For a family named Stark.

STATE BRIDGE (Eagle) So named for the bridge across the Colorado River at this point.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS (Routt) Because of the peculiar puffing sounds formerly emitted by one of the springs resembling a large river steamer in full action.

STERLING (Logan) Named after Sterling, Illinois by David Leavitt, a surveyor for the Union Pacific Railroad, for his hometown.

STONER (Montezuma) Named for Stoney Creek which was named for the many stones and rocks in its bed.

STRASBURG (Arapahoe) John Strasburg, U. P. Railroad foreman who laid the track through there.

SUGAR CITY (Crowley) For the Holly Sugar Factory located there.

SULLIVAN (Arapahoe) For Dennis Sullivan, prominent Denver banker who was interested in an irrigation project in this area.

SUMMIT COUNTY (1861) It is the "Summit of the Snowy Range". The first county seat was PARKVILLE.

SUNBEAM (Moffat) Named by N. C. Bonivee, a farmer, because the sun seemed to shine more brightly on this particular spot than anywhere else in the valley.

SUPERIOR (Boulder) For Superior, Wisconsin.

SWALLOWS (Pueblo) For the thousands of swallows nesting in the limestone cliffs along the Arkansas River.

SWINK (Otero) For State Senator George Washington Swink, farmer and legislator, who as mayor of Rocky Ford in 1885 inaugurated the famous "Watermelon Day".

TABERNASH (Grand) Named for the Ute Indian Tabernash, killed in this area. The killing was a forerunner of the Meeker and Thornburg massacres. It was named by E. A. Meredith, Chief Engineer of the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad. Formerly known as UTE JUNCTION for the junction of the Rollins Pass Road and the Berthoud Pass Road.

TARRYALL (Park) A group discovered gold and believing there was enough gold here for all, gave the camp the name "Tarry-all".

TELLER COUNTY (1899) For Senator Henry M. Teller.

TELLURIDE (San Miguel) For the ore tellurium. It was first called COLUMBIA.

TENNESSEE PASS (Lake) It is located on the Tennessee fork of the Arkansas River and named by prospectors from Tennessee.

TERCIO (Las Animas) Meaning "The Third". It was the third of five mining operations opened in that area by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in 1904.

THATCHER (Las Animas) For M. D. Thatcher of Pueblo who owned cattle ranches in the area. It was first called "HOLE IN THE ROCK", because of a natural spring where the stage coach horses were watered.

THOMPSON CANYON (Larimer) (Big and Little Thompson Rivers) For David Thompson, an early day settler and trapper.

TIFFANY (La Plata) Named for an early resident, Ed Tiffany, a civil engineer.

TIGER (Summit) After the Royal Tiger Mines Company.

TIMNATH (Larimer) Named by Reverend Charles A. Taylor, who took his cue from the 14th Chapter of Judges. He was the first postmaster. Formerly known as SHERWOOD, for an early day pioneer. Timnath was the place where Sampson went to claim his bride.

TIMPAS (Otero) For Timpas Creek which was named for the Timpas limestone quarried near the mouth of the creek. Timpas is from the Latin word timpa or tympa-stone which is used in front of the open hearth of a blast furnase.

TINCUP (Gunnison) Because tincups were used by the local saloon in dispensing of whiskey. Another version is that tincups were used in the panning of gold, but this version is not generally accepted. First known as VIRGINIA CITY, but changed to TINCUP in 1882 by Fred Lottes, a prospector.

TIOGA (Huerfano) Indian word meaning "where it forks".

TOLLAND (Gilpin) Named by Mrs. Charles H. Toll, the owner of the townsite after the home of her ancestors, Tolland, England.

TOLTEC (Huerfano) For the Toltec Coal Mine which was so named for the Toltec Indian Tribe.

TOPONAS (Routt) Indian word meaning "sleeping lion" for a rock formation resembling a lion.

TORRES (Las Animas) Spanish for "towers" or "turrets". Probably named for the coal mine turrets in the area.

TOWAOC (Montezuma) Ute Indian word meaning "approval" or "all right".

TRIMBLE SPRINGS (La Plata) For Frank Trimble who discovered the hot springs on his ranch.

TRINCHERA (Las Animas) Spanish for "trenches" or "ditches". This town was so named for a gap or pass opening through a nearby mesa.

TROUBLESOME (Grand) Named by soldiers on their way from Denver to Meeker to fight Indians. At certain times they were forced to detour eight miles from the Henry A. King Ranch to cross this stream, so they labeled it TROUBLESOME. In high water the river is very treacherous.

TUNGSTEN (Boulder) So named for the tungsten mines which were active during World War I.

TWO-BIT GULCH (Lake) The name has reference to placer gravel being sold there for "two bits" (25c) a yard. Was formerly called GRANITE.

TWO BUTTES (Baca) After a formation of two buttes in that area.

TYRONE (Las Animas) Formerly called YETTA. There are several homespun versions regarding Tyrone, but no official information.

UNCOMPAHGRE (Delta) Ute Indian word for "hot water spring".

URAVAN (Montrose) Word combination of uranium and vanadium.

VALLECITO (La Plata) A river and a dam. A Spanish word for "little valley".

VALLERY (Morgan) For John F. Vallery who was General Freight Agent for the Burlington Railroad at the time.

VALLOROSO (Las Animas) A contraction of the Italian or Spanish words meaning "Valley of the Bear". The post office is located near Bear Canyon but the Post Office Department refused to permit the use of Bear Canyon because of its similarity to Bear and Bear Creek, so VALLOROSO was selected.

VALMONT (Boulder) Presumed to be named after the buttes and the valley—vale and mount. The town was laid out in 1865 and was once larger than Boulder.

VERNON (Yuma) Named for a Free Methodist preacher who was an early day resident before the town was laid out. It was first called CONDON'S CORNER for Barney Condon, founder of the Wray "Rattler" and an early day homesteader.

VICTOR (Teller) After Victor Mine. It was first known as CITY OF MINES, also known as MOUNT ROSA PLACER CLAIM, and also VICTORY.

VILAS (Baca) In honor of Senator Vilas of Wisconsin.

VIRGINIA DALE (Larimer) Named after the wife of Jack Slade, a one time notorous badman.

VROMAN (Otero) During World War I, it was named Vroman for an early settler. Before that it was called WITZER, for an early day German farmer.

WAGON WHEEL GAP (Mineral) Named by Judge Jones, pioneer of the region who found a large wagon wheel there. It was thereafter known as the gap where the wagon wheel was found, hence Wagon Wheel Gap. The wheel was supposed to have belonged to the party of Captain Charles Baker who founded Silverton.

WALDEN (Jackson) For Mark A. Walden, one time postmaster at Sage Hen Springs (now a ghost town) a few miles from Walden.

WALSENBURG (Huerfano) For Fred Walsen, a leader in the community. It was first called PLAZA DE LOS LEONES for Don Miguel Antonio Leon, an early day settler.

WALSH (Baca) The first general baggage agent for the Santa Fe R. R.

WARD (Boulder) For Calvin N. Ward, an early miner.

WASHINGTON COUNTY (1889) For President George Washington.

WATKINS (Adams) L. A. Watkins, local rancher and merchant. First called BOX ELDER.

WELBY (Adams) General Welby, President of the Denver, Laramie and Northwest Railroad.

WELD COUNTY (1861) For Lewis Ledyard Weld, the first Secretary of Colorado Territory. The first county seat was St. Vrain.

WELDONA (Morgan) For General Weldon. This name was confused with Walden so they added an "a".

WELLINGTON (Larimer) Named for Traffic Manager Wellington of the Colorado Southern Railroad.

WESTCLIFF (Custer) For Westcliff-on-the-Sea in England. It was first called CLIFTON.

WESTMINSTER (Jefferson) For Westminster College nearby, which was a Presbyterian School.

WESTON (Las Animas) For A. J. Weston, its first settler. It was first called LA JUNTA.

WETMORE (Custer) For William Wetmore, who surveyed and named the townsite in 1880.

WHITE RIVER (Rio Blanco) For the white cliffs in the area.

WIGGINS (Morgan) Named for Oliver P. Wiggns, a frontiersman and scout. It was first called CORONA.

WILD HORSE (Cheyenne) Derived its name from a nearby creek which was once a watering place for immense bands of wild horses.

WILEY (Prowers) For W. M. Wiley, who promoted the town. He was also president of the Holly Sugar Company at one time.

WINDSOR (Weld) For Reverend A. S. Windsor. It was formerly known as NEW LIBERTY and also NEW WINDSOR.

WINONA (Larimer) For Winona Washburn, daughter of Judge Washburn. This community is now a part of Loveland.

WOLCOTT (Eagle) Named in honor of Senator Ed. O. Wolcott. It was first known as RUSSELS.

WOODLAND PARK (Teller) So named because of the abundance of pine and spruce trees.

WOODROW (Washington) For President Woodrow Wilson. So named in 1913, the first year that Wilson became president. The name was suggested by John Epperson of Brush.

WOOTTON (Las Animas) For R. L. Wootton, frontier scout.

WRAY (Yuma) For John Wray, an early day rancher and cattle foreman for I. P. Olive.

YAMPA (Routt) Indian word for a "plant" known as "squaw-root" and by several other names, the root of which was eaten by the Indians. They resembled parsnips and were plentiful in this region.

YAMPA RIVER (Routt) Indian word for a plant whose root was edible. Early trappers referred to this river as the BEAR RIVER because of the many bears in that vicinity.

YELLOW JACKET (Montezuma) So named because in the nearby canyon walls live great swarms of yellow jackets.

YODER (El Paso) For Ira M. Yoder, who was active in securing a post office there in 1907 and who served as its first postmaster.

YUMA COUNTY (1889) Named for the town of Yuma. See that city for more details.

YUMA (Yuma) Named for "Yuma Switch" a nearby Burlington siding and switch. When the track was laid here in the 1880's a number of Indians from the Yuma tribe (not native to Colorado) were employed as laborers. One of them died at the scene of this particular switch and he was only scantily buried at the side of the road-bed, being merely covered with some excavated dirt without any burial or funeral ceremonies whatever. They did refer to the location, however, as the Yuma Switch, on account of this dead Indian. In the Yuma language the word means "Sons of the rivers" or "Sons of the Captain".

OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT COLORADO

While gathering this material, other interesting and factual sidelights were uncovered which I hope will be of interest to the reader.

Five flags have flown over Colorado. Spain, France (as part of the Louisiana Purchase), Mexico, Republic of Texas, and our own Stars and Stripes.

At one time Colorado was in Kansas Territory and in 1861 became the Territory of Colorado. It achieved statehood in 1876—hence known as the Centennial State.

In 1861 the first 17 counties in Colorado were created, ten of those located adjacent to the Continental Divide, in the mining area where our first settlers appeared. Only four counties made up eastern Colorado—Weld, Arapahoe, Douglas and Huerfano—all extending to the Kansas line. On the western slope there were only three, Summit, Lake and Conejos, all of which extended to the Utah line.

Only five of the original 17 counties retained their original boundaries. They are Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson and Park. The other 12 were divided, some several times, to provide for the present number. The last one was created from Conejos County in 1913. The 63rd county is called Alamosa County.

Only one county—Greenwood—in eastern Colorado, was ever abolished. It was named for Colonel W. N. Greenwood, superintendent of construction for the Kansas-Pacific Railway. Kit Carson was its county seat. It was later absorbed into Bent and Elbert Counties.

In Colorado, there are 1051 peaks over 10,000 feet above sea level.

Of the 81 peaks in the United States over 14,000 feet high 52 of them are located in Colorado.

The mean altitude of Colorado is 6800 feet above sea level, according to the National Geographic Society—higher than that of any other state, although Wyoming is a close second.

The highest point in Colorado is the peak of Mt. Elbert, 14,431 feet, and the lowest point is 3350 feet, in Prowers County.

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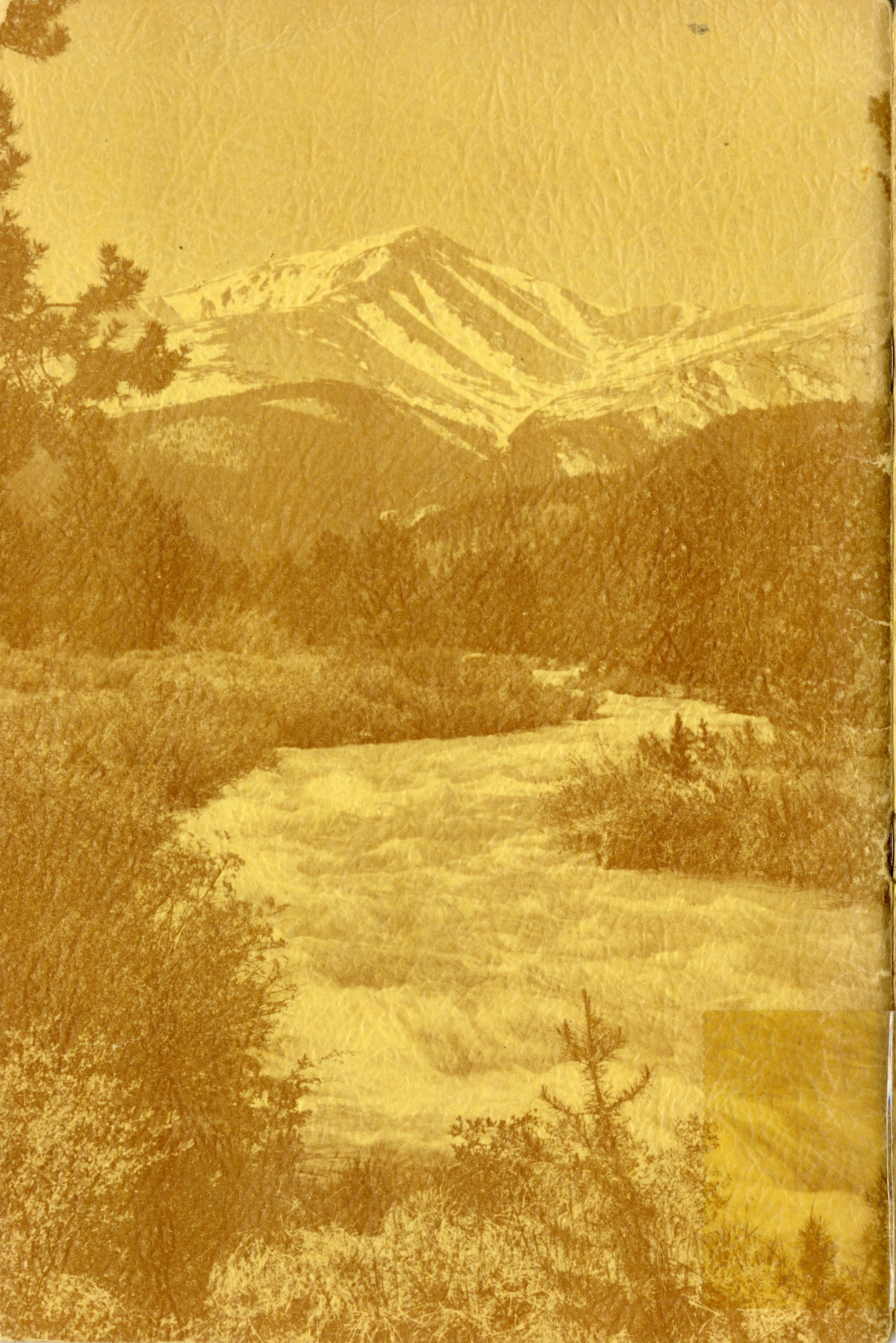
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